

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning and Facilities

Many communities are updating and refining their bicycle and pedestrian plans. INDOT now incorporates sidewalks, separated bicycle-pedestrian paths and concrete box culverts in many of its projects to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Demand for bicycle racks on buses has grown. Hammond, Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Bloomington, Columbus, Evansville, Muncie, Indianapolis and the Louisville metro area transit systems have mounted bicycle racks on their buses, making many bicyclists multi-modal travelers.

Tunnels will provide grade-separated access for pedestrians and bicyclists in Columbus, Evansville, Schererville, Merrillville, Carmel, Portage and Indianapolis. When new highway bridges were built across the Wabash River in Lafayette and the White River in Indianapolis, the old bridges were converted to pedestrian bridges.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

The number of crashes involving bicycles dropped significantly as did the number of pedestrian crashes in 2000. Pedestrian and cyclist injuries and pedestrian fatalities were at their lowest point in nine years. Bicycling fatalities were lower than the previous three years.

The chart below shows bicycle and pedestrian collision rates from 1997 to 2000.

Vehicle/Bicycle Collisions			
	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
1997	1,307	14	1,177
1998	1,399	13	1,271
1999	1,382	15	1,242
2000	1,286	11	1,108

Vehicle/Pedestrian Collisions			
	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
1997	1,804	77	1,811
1998	1,802	74	1,814
1999	1,839	69	1,826
2000	1,594	57	1,605

Source: INDOT's Multimodal and Program Development divisions and the Indiana State Police

Indiana's Rail Trails

A number of important rail-trails are under development in Indiana.

The Cardinal Greenway, part of the 6,000-mile American Discovery Trail, will extend about 60 miles and connect Richmond, Muncie and Marion. About 30 miles of the Greenway are open for use.

When completed the Oak-Savannah and Prairie-Duneland rail-trails in Lake and Porter counties will combine to form a single 22-mile facility of regional and statewide significance.

The B & O Trail will extend 55 miles west from Marion County to Parke County, an area known for its covered bridges.

Nationwide there are 11,892 miles of rail-trail. Indiana has 121 miles of rail-trails open for use as of February 2003.

The photo, provided by Portage's Park and Recreation Department, shows the Prairie-Duneland Trail.

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